

AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE
RECOMMENDING COMMITTEE MEETING OF: MAY 5, 2009

DEPARTMENT: CITY ATTORNEY

DIRECTOR: BRADFORD R. JERBIC

☐ Consent ☒ Discussion

SUBJECT:

Bill No. 2009-17 – Updates Municipal Code standards and requirements for ambulance services provided by means of franchise. Proposed by: Candace Falder, Acting Director of Finance and Business Services

Fiscal Impact



No Impact



Augmentation Required



Budget Funds Available

Amount:

Funding Source:

Dept./Division:

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND:

This bill will update Municipal Code standards and requirements for ambulance services provided by means of franchise. The update represents a cooperative effort among local jurisdictions and franchisees. The changes of note include the adoption of an ambulance replacement standard and a number of adjustments to ambulance response time standards, penalties for noncompliance and penalty waivers.

RECOMMENDATION:

This bill should be submitted to a Recommending Committee for review, hearing and recommendation to the City Council for final action.

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:

1. Bill No. 2009-17
2. Business Impact Statement

Motion made by DAVID W. STEINMAN to forward to the City Council with No Recommendation

Passed For: 2; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 0

DAVID W. STEINMAN, RICKI Y. BARLOW; (Against-None); (Abstain-None); (Did Not Vote-None); (Excused-None)

Minutes:

CHIEF DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY VAL STEED indicated that this bill contained changes that would correspond with changes in the related franchise agreement. The franchise agreement and this bill would be presented to the City Council on May 20, 2009.

CHRIS WARE, City Attorney's Office, explained that the City of North Las Vegas, Clark

RECOMMENDING COMMITTEE MEETING OF: MAY 5, 2009

County and the City of Las Vegas jointly regulate ambulance service providers in their jurisdictions and were currently working to improve performance and update regulations. Clark County has already adopted these changes and the most significant change was in response times. The response time for B Level calls would be lowered and the response time for C, D and E Level calls would be increased, making the response time of 11 minutes and 59 seconds uniform for all calls. Currently, the response time for C, D and E level calls range from 8 minutes and 59 seconds to 12 minutes and 59 seconds. Fire and Rescue support these changes because, as the first responders, they have the ability to transport patients in the event the ambulance providers are delayed. Additionally, the penalty for non-compliance in response times would be increased.

In exchange for these changes, the existing Hospital Drop Time Credits will be deleted. Those credits created an accounting loophole which allowed the ambulance providers to claim they arrived on time when they were actually late under specific circumstances. This change will allow the City to obtain a more accurate record of the ambulances' on-time percentages. The bill includes a requirement that ambulances be replaced at 300,000 miles as the replacement of ambulances is not currently regulated. MR. WARE noted that the three jurisdictions, the ambulance providers, their unions and the Fire Departments within each jurisdiction supported these changes and recommended approval.

COUNCILMAN STEINMAN expressed concern with replacing ambulances at 300,000 miles and with increasing the response times for C, D and E Level calls to almost 12 minutes. He pointed out that C, D and E Level calls required more than one response unit. MR. WARE noted that Fire and Rescue representatives were the most qualified to answer those questions and were not available at this meeting.

JOHN WILSON, General Manager of American Medical Response (AMR), explained that his company employs a very aggressive preventative maintenance schedule. Each ambulance averages 50,000 miles per year with 5 to 6 years of use in good condition. The engines are built for 300,000 miles with parts replaced before they fail. Regarding the changes in Hospital Drop Time Credits and response times, MR. WILSON explained that Fire and Rescue had requested a uniform standard to ensure gross compliance in response times. MR. WILSON explained that AMR deploys ambulances based on historical call demand while Fire and Rescue units are deployed geographically. The public is well-served by dual systems that provide advanced life support very quickly. This bill will better reflect the partnership between the ambulance service providers and the Fire Departments within each jurisdiction.

MR. WILSON acknowledged COUNCILMAN STEINMAN'S concerns regarding response times and explained that this bill would create a single standard of 11 minutes and 59 seconds for all response times. The Fire Department would also be on site to ensure patients receive a rapid response and Fire and Rescue had committed to providing two transports per unit per day. He emphasized that the Fire Departments and AMR work very well together to ensure that patients receive the best possible care in a timely manner.

COUNCILMAN STEINMAN stated he would meet with Fire and Rescue to obtain the answers

RECOMMENDING COMMITTEE MEETING OF: MAY 5, 2009

to his questions and suggested this item be discussed before the full City Council. CHIEF DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY STEED noted that MAYOR GOODMAN has the ability to entertain discussion on this and any other bill during the City Council meeting. COUNCILMAN BARLOW suggested that this item be forwarded to the City Council with no recommendation and requested further discussion at the meeting.

